

3 JUL 1940
PURCHASE

BULLETIN
OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCXXXIII.

THE four-hundred-and-twenty-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Wednesday, June 12, 1940.

Chairman : Dr. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON.

Members present :—J. FISHER ; Capt. C. H. B. GRANT (*Editor*) ; Dr. J. M. HARRISON ; Dr. E. HOPKINSON ; Miss E. P. LEACH ; Miss C. LONGFIELD ; Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW ; C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED ; Col. H. A. F. MAGRATH ; Dr. P. MANSON-BAHR ; T. H. NEWMAN ; H. PEASE ; W. L. SCLATER ; D. SETH-SMITH ; B. W. TUCKER ; H. F. WITHERBY.

Guests :—Miss E. A. U. NICOL ; Mrs. MANSON-BAHR ; Mrs. W. L. SCLATER ; Mrs. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON.

Members, 17 ; Guests, 4. Total, 21.

A new Genus of African Swamp Warbler.

Capt. C. H. B. GRANT and Mr. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED exhibited the type-species of the following proposed new genus :—

CALAMONASTIDES, gen. nov.

Description.—General characters and feet similar to the genus *Calamocætor* W. L. Sclater ; but general colour olive-brown and yellow, and bill rather broader.

Type of Genus.—*Chloropeta gracilirostris* O. Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xix. 1906, p. 133.

Measurements.—Tarsus 25 ; middle toe with claw 21 ; hind toe with claw 19 ; breadth of bill at base 5 mm. Number of tail-feathers apparently ten.

Remarks.—A comparison of the type of *Chloropeta gracilirostris* with members of the genus *Chloropeta* show that the feet are very large and the toes and claws long ; and available field-notes show that it is a swamp dweller and not a forest dweller as are *Chloropeta natalensis* and races and *Chloropeta similis*. The large feet, toes and claws agree well with those of the genus *Calamocætor*, which is also a swamp dweller ; but as the general colour is not in agreement with the known species of *Calamocætor* and the bill is rather broader we are of opinion that it is best placed in a genus of its own, which will follow the genus *Calamocætor*. Gyldenstolpe (K. Sven. Vet.-Akad. Handl. ser. iii. i. 1924, p. 207) has cast doubt on *C. gracilirostris* belonging to the genus *Chloropeta*. Dr. James P. Chapin has very kindly sent us the following measurements of three specimens in the American Museum of Natural History from south-western Uganda and southern end of Lake Edward :—

Two males : tarsus 23–25 mm. ; middle toe with claw 19·5–20 mm. ; hind toe with claw 17–18 mm.

One female : tarsus 24 mm. ; middle toe with claw 20 mm. ; hind toe with claw 17 mm.

Although the tails of these specimens are not complete Dr. Chapin states that ten would seem to be the full complement of feathers.

New Races of Flycatchers from Eastern Africa.

Capt. C. H. B. GRANT and Mr. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED also exhibited and described the following three new races :—

Batis orientalis lynesii, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *Batis orientalis chadensis* Alexander, Bull. B. O. C. xxi. 1908, p. 105 : west of Lake Chad, in the female having a bright tawny, not chestnut, chest-band.

Distribution.—Red Sea Province of the Sudan.

Type.—In the British Museum. Adult female, Sinkat, Red Sea Province, March 20, 1914, collected by Abel Chapman and Capt. H. Lynes, British Museum Reg. no. 1919.12.17.211.

Measurements of Type.—Wing 58 mm.